



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
Division of Welfare

Bureau of Facility Standards

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER #89-4

DATE: April 25, 1989

TO: Administrators
Licensed and Certified Hospitals

FROM: Jean Schoonover, R.N., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards


SUBJECT: Continuous Cardiac Monitoring

Since the implementation of new state regulations, it seems some facilities have monitors in place in the ICU but have no staff members assigned to watch them or a technician is assigned rather than a licensed nurse. The Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards for Hospitals in Idaho, October 14, 1988, address this issue at §02.1420,02.b., "There shall be sufficient registered nurses with training and experience in critical care on duty on a twenty-four (24) hour basis for nursing care and nursing management."

This office's position will be that a licensed nurse must be physically present at all times to continuously monitor a patient on a cardiac monitor. The licensed practical nurse may play an assisting role in cardiac monitoring with a registered nurse supervising. The registered nurse is to make judgments and decisions and initiate action concerning a patient's cardiac rhythm as displayed on a cardiac monitor or rhythm strip.

If licensed nurses are assigned to watch cardiac monitors, they should have, on file with the facility, documentation that they have successfully completed a training course in EKG (electrocardiogram) monitoring.

If a facility is considering using a monitoring aide, they must first contact the Board of Nursing for a curriculum approval.



Jean Schoonover, R.N., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

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